(944)

P810032-1863

March 6, 1981

Dear Senator Bradley:

Thank you for your inquiry of March 2 with which you forwarded the concerns of several of your constituents about the situation of Korean opposition politician Kim Dae Jung.

As you know, we welcomed President Chun's January 23 decision to commute the death sentence against Mr. Kim and to reduce the sentences given to his co-defendants. In January, the Republic of Korea also lifted martial law and, in conjunction with President Chun's inauguration, announced an amnesty for 5,221 persons. While much remains to be done we believe that these actions presage further review of similar cases which have attracted international concern.

We are pleased by the spirit of reconciliation embodied in these actions already taken. We also believe that such decision will contribute positively to strengthening the long-standing relations between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

Sincerely,

Richard Fairbanks
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

The Honorable
Bill Bradley,
United States Senate.

Drafted by:EA/K:FCAshley:jcm
Control No. 30-0335 3/13/81 x27717
Clearances: EA/K:WTBreer, Acting
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